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Economic and Social Council

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Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
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Agenda item 6
Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Measures to improve the quadrennial reporting procedures

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming its resolution 1996/31, in which it established that one of the primary purposes of the consultative arrangement is to secure expert information or advice from organizations whose special competence and/or activities in areas of direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations qualified them to make a significant contribution to the work of the Council,

Mindful of the importance of an efficient and effective quadrennial reporting and review system to ensure the smooth functioning of a dynamic and productive consultative arrangement as set out in its resolutions 1996/31 and 1999/34 of 28 July 1999,

Emphasizing that the quadrennial reporting exercise mandated under resolution 1996/31 constitutes the only formal monitoring mechanism established to enable the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to confirm the continued existence and activity of an organization and to determine that it conforms at all times to the principles governing the establishment and nature of their consultative relationship,

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Recalling, in particular, paragraphs 55, 57 (c) and 61 (c) of its resolution 1996/31, which set out the responsibility of non-governmental organizations in general or special consultative status to submit quadrennial reports and the basis for the suspension or withdrawal of such consultative status for those organizations that fail to make any positive or effective contribution to the work of the United Nations,

Expressing serious concern at the unsatisfactory submission of quadrennial reports,

1. *Decides* that the procedure for the submission of quadrennial reports for a non-governmental organization in general or special consultative status shall be as follows:

(a) Six months prior to the due date for the report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs shall write to the non-governmental organization concerned to remind it of the reporting requirement, the expected date of the submission of the report, and the penalties for non-reporting;

(b) One month after the due date for the report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall send an overdue notice to the non-governmental organization concerned reminding it of the reporting requirement, the penalties for non-reporting and requesting that the report be submitted by the first day of the following January;

(c) If the outstanding report is not received by the first day of January following the due date for the report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall send a final letter to the non-governmental organization concerned requesting that the report be submitted by the first day of the following May, and warning that the non-receipt of the report by this date shall result in the suspension of consultative status, copying this letter to the Permanent Mission to the United Nations of the host country of the non-governmental organization;

(d) If no report is received by the first day of the following May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall, at its resumed session, compile a list of all non-governmental organizations with outstanding reports and recommend to the Council the immediate suspension of their consultative status for a period of one year;

(e) Following a decision by the Council to suspend the consultative status of any non-governmental organization with an outstanding report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall write to the non-governmental organization concerned advising it of the suspension, requesting the submission of the outstanding report by the first day of May of the following year, and warning that failure to submit the report by such time shall result in the withdrawal of consultative status, copying the letter to the Permanent Mission to the United Nations of the host country of the non-governmental organization;

(f) At its subsequent resumed session in the following May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall review the status of reporting by the non-governmental organizations whose consultative status is suspended, and shall recommend to the Council either the re-instatement of consultative status for any non-governmental organization that has hitherto submitted its report or the

withdrawal of consultative status for any non-governmental organization with a continued outstanding report;

2. *Reiterates* that, in accordance with paragraph 56 of its resolution 1996/31, in cases where the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations has decided to recommend that the general or special consultative status of a non-governmental organization or its listing on the Roster be suspended or withdrawn, the non-governmental organization concerned shall have an opportunity to present its response for appropriate consideration by the Committee as expeditiously as possible;

3. *Also reiterates* that, in accordance with paragraph 59 of its resolution 1996/31, a non-governmental organization whose consultative status or whose listing on the Roster is withdrawn may be entitled to reapply for consultative status or for inclusion on the Roster not sooner than three years after the effective date of such withdrawal;

4. *Requests* the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to ensure that these revised guidelines are clearly posted on the website of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and included in the initial letter sent to each non-governmental organization when advising it of the granting of general or special consultative status.